$ 1.50

denver apple pi

Seed

Newsletter for Denver's Apple users

Volume 6 Number 9 Septeber 1984

Mac Notes

By Steven Martin

Sat down at the last Core Meet and put together the clubs first Macintosh disk for the club library. If you want a copy of this disk you will have to bring your Mac to the meeting in order to make a copy. Here is a listing of what we have on it:

MacTEP -- A public domain terminal software program that works at either 300 or 1200 baud. Allows user to end a file from disk or save incoming data to a disk file. I have made some modifications. When you are in the terminal mode everything you type, except command-C and command-S, is sent to the remote computer and their data is displayed on the Mac screen. By typing a command-Z you enter the command mode with a prompt. Typing a ? produces a menu that gives all of the commands available from the prompt. Hitting the ENTER key returns to the terminal mode. A phone number can be input, then the modem can be instructed to dial the phone number indefinitly until a connection is made. This program is written MS-BASIC and that software will be necessary in order to use MacTEP.

Vampire -- An MS-BASIC text adventure. Simple but fun.

Disk Utility -- This is an application that allows the user to format any disk, erase a formatted disk, copy disks quickly between two drives and lots more. This is NOT a user friedly program and no prompts will appear to ask if you are sure you want to erase a disk you have spent hours to create, so be careful!

Randy's Art -- Randall Ansley sat down and created a quicky art piece with MacPaint and I included it on the disk for everyone's entertainment.

That is all we have. We need more contributions from other Mac owners. Come to the Core Meetings and show us what you are doing with your Mac. We would like to get a Mac special interest group going. Give a call on the Apple Pi BBS or call me at 469-6855, or Joe Nagy at 978-0788.

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Z/80 CARDS & APPLIED ENGINEERING

by André Marc van Meulebrouck

After a nearly one year long search for the ultimate Z80 card, I finally feel satisfied that I have found it. If I were giving out awards, my award would go to Applied Engineering. In this article I will start by explaining why you would want a Z80 card, then, I will describe the motherboard problems some Apple owners may experience when trying to run a Z80 card and how Applied Engineering's end user support can help. Next, I will enumerate the advantages of the Applied Engineering Z80 card, and last, I will explain why having 64K of RAM on a Z80 card is not an asset.

Why CP/M?

First of all, what is a Z80 card? It is a printed circuit board that has a Z80 MPU (micro processing unit) on it. It allows you to run the operating system called CP/M (Control Program/Microcomputers). The advantage of the CP/M operating system is the enormous amounts of software available for it. Alot of it is in the public domain. The CP/M operating system was created by Gary Kildall, starting in 1973. The system was written in PL/M (a high level language), and gives the impression of being modeled after operating systems on mainframes. It was the first real operating system for personal computers. This gave it a momentum of software following that is still impressive today. The reason you would want CP/M is to be able to tap into that huge base of software, and a Z80 card is needed to run CP/M since it is based on the Z80 MPU (originally, however, it was based on the Intel 8080, but the Z80 mnemonic set is a superset of the the 8080 set). CP/M is rich in business software, and also quite rich in languages. Although everyone's reasons for wanting CP/M are different, mine were for the languages and public domain software available for it. The highly respected TLC (The Lisp Company) LISP is available in Apple CP/M format. Two public domain LISPs are available; XLISP (written in C), and a LISP written in Pascal. Both are from the SIG/M Users's Group public domain library, and are available in the Denver Apple Pi Users's Group library in Apple

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
$10 APPLICATION FEE AND $18 PER YEAR DUES

APPLE PI is an Apple Computer Users Group - not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. - that provides many member benefits, some of which are:

MONTHLY MEETINGS-

On the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. APPLE PI holds its general meeting at the Greene Center, Colorado School of Mines Campus, Golden, Colorado. This meeting is a combination of an informational meeting, new product announcements, and a short business meeting. The members are given an opportunity to buy computer supplies a little above cost. Software products are given away as door prizes.

On the Sunday following the general meeting there is an informal meet which is usually held at the home of a member, the location of which is announced in the newsletter and at the general meeting. This meeting is from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and provides a more informal environment to seek or give advice to fellow members and get copies of programs from the APPLE PI Library. Both of these meetings are open to the general public but only members have access to products that are sold.

PROGRAM LIBRARY-

APPLE PI currently has a library of 8,000 programs. All current disks are in 16 sector (3.3, Pascal, CP/M) format and are available to any member. APPLE PI Members can obtain copies from the library:

1) By coming to the monthly informal meeting (swap meet);
2) By written request to the club librarian (at any meeting or by mail);
3) By electronic mail on APPLE PI's bulletin board system:

When requesting copies, please include the following information:

a) Your Name, Address, and Phone number;
b) Disk Category and Volume Number;
c) Blank Diskette(s) or request to utilize a new disk (member will be charged $2.50 for the new disk);
d) Copy fee ($1.00 per diskette side unless you donate a program you have written at the same time and fill out a Progam Submission Form). Only complete sides of disks will be copied.
e) Instructions on how the disks are to be returned, i.e., at the next meeting, by mail, etc. (IF RETURN IS TO BE BY MAIL PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED FLOPPY DISK MAILER, AND $2.50 TO COVER SHIPPING COSTS).

DISK OF THE MONTH-

Each month a collection of some of the best programs donated to APPLE PI during the preceding month are made available. The DOM can be purchased at any group meeting or by mail.

DUES-

Current membership dues are $18.00 per year, with a one-time application fee of $10.00. Checks should be made payable to APPLE PI.

Mac Notes

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Tips for the Numeric Keypad

If you use Multiplan and do not own the Numeric Keypad, I reccomend that you go out and buy one today! The special cursor movement keys allow you to make quick short movements in the spread sheet very quickly. There are times when the Mouse is just not the best method. Furthermore, it has been pointed out that the Mac keyboard is missing an ESCAPE key (the Command- sequence sometimes works). This presents problems for people who use their Macs to communicate with some mainframes. Well, it turns out that the CLEAR key on the Numeric Keypad sends an ESCAPE. Try it!

Software for the Mac...

No more than a couple of weeks ago I was listening to IBM and Apple // owners snickering about the lack of software for the Mac. Today I am litterally so wrapped up in playing with all the new stuff for my Mac that I am running behind schedule on the software reviews I have promised several people. Here is the list of some stuff I am using:

MS-Basic: Until recently this has been the only published language for the Mac. The limitations of this system are almost to much to bear. Programmers cannot create their own windows or menus, execution is slow (nearly as slow as Applesoft on the //e!) and Microsoft did not make use of Apple's built in floating point routines. Still, the MS-Basic is a standard on several computer systems and there is already lots of public domain software for it.

MacForth: Compiled, fast, complete control of the Macintosh user interface and lots of great documentation. Forth is not a language for beginners, but for the experienced programmer it is the only way to write full fledged application software for the Mac without buying a Lisa. I reccomend it.

MacPascal: The final Beta test release looks good. This version of Pascal is interpreted and has an excellent step and trace function that should make it excellent as a teaching tool for new programmers. The documentation covers stuff about the Mac Toolbox that I probably will never want to know. Precision math? How about 80 bit floating point math for numbers in the range of 5E+-14000 range? Look for this one to be popular on the campuses.

PFS: file & report: Both on one disk for under $200. One of the programs I regretted giving up on the Apple +. An excellent Data Base Management program for the Mac. Combines simplicity with power.

ThinkTank: Outline editing program for the Mac. For keeping notes, preparing written articles or general organizing of ideas this mouse based application software is simple and FAST. However, as with much of the current Mac software, could use more memory. The Apple // and IBM versions have manual over 250 pages, for the Mac it is under 50 pages. That is what a Universal interface buys you!

More later when I get out from under this pile: Megamerge, Megafile, Habadex, Main Street Filer, Filevision, Transylvania (the Mac likes games too!), Multiplan and stuff I can't even consider looking at yet.

Hard disks too! I have seen both the Davong and the Tecmar disks and have only resisted the urge at the begging of my wallet. The external drive will have to suffice for now.

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50 GOLDEN DOM

Denver Apple Pi's Golden DOM

#050 September 1984 Disk-of-the-Month

Collegative Prop	Computer Serial	Word Searcher
Program Padlock	Murphey's Laws	Tiny.Lisp
3-D Tic Tac Toe	Snoopy Poster	Math Decathlon
Colorado Lottery	Score your heart	Message Center
Flash Copy	Market Crash	

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Product Review: Snowfile

Snowfile is an innovative, user friendly program designed for everyone who doesn't need the power or complications associated with much larger more complex data base programs. Snowfile uses a drawer/files in drawer nomenclature to characterize its operations. One must initialize and format a drawer (disk) to be used with the master program. This is done by using the arrow keys to move the cursor to the "NewDrawer" function. Once the data disk has been configured, it is then ready to accept user defined "files" to put within the drawer (a novel approach). Depending on the size of any file, you can put from one to nine files within a drawer. Should you have very large files, you may only get one or two into the drawer before you have it filled.

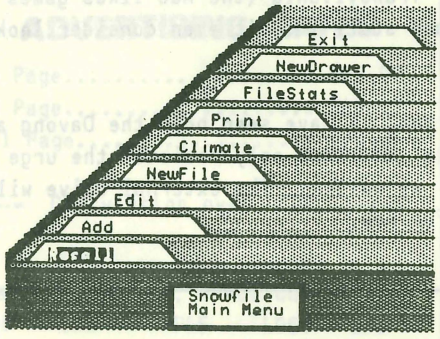

Figure 1- SNOWFILE'S MAIN MENU

After booting the program disk, the first thing the user needs to do is to define the environment in which the program is working. Once defined, these are saved automatically on the program disk and need not be changed unless you change one of the parameters. Parameters asked include whether you have one disk drive or two, and whether you have a printer and in what slot the driver card is located. Snowfile does not support an 80-column card, a minor inconvience.

Secondly, the user must pick the master menu option called "NewFile". This allows one to generate and define a new file. After doing this you are asked to give the file a name using from one to nine alpha characters (Snowfile does not accept numbers or punctuation in file names). Once that is entered, you go immediately into defining the fields to be contained on each record. This is where Snowfile shines and overcomes many of the complaints I have with data base programs. You don't need to know a host of control codes or have a reference card handy to get you through the task of defining the fields.

Snowfile asks you to enter the appropriate title or key that you desire to be prompted by when you are later entering data; then insert underline (period . key does the same thing) for as long as you want the field defined. The user can make each field several characters or several lines long. Each record is limited to five screen pages in length with each page being 18 lines long and 40 characters wide.

I find that I rarely use the entire available record length, so I insert a blank line between major fields for ease in entering data.

Two things are important that the user should remember. First, once the fields are defined and saved, they cannot be changed. This is because of the way that Snowfile allocates space on the data disk. Secondly, the user should always remember that when he needs to abort any operation within Snowfile, he can do this anytime he has the "box" cursor prompt by pressing ESC .

Having my fields defined, I can now enter data. This is done from the main menu by selecting the "ADD" option. This opens the data disk (file drawer) and then I must select the file to which I wish to add data. Once selected, I merely step thru the fields entering the data. Once my data in any field is entered, pressing the RETURN key steps me to the next field. Fields can be skipped by merely pressing RETURN when you reach it. Once you reach the end of the record you have the option to save the record or edit it prior to saving.

Snowfile also allows the user to check file status within a drawer. This menu option lists the files in the drawer and the number of records in each file.

Printing the records with Snowfile is different than any other database program I've used. It is extremely flexible as far as defining the location for each field to begin printing, but the user is wise to use the guide sheet provided with the documentation to work out the page layout. This guide sheet divides up a normal 8 1/2 x 11 page into rows and columns to be used in inputing the print format. Small formats such as labels, 3 x 5 cards or forms can be done by scaling them off the guide sheet. (I use a copy of the guide sheet covered with a plastic laminate to work out layout for normal items. On forms, I use an acetate transparency which I had made from the guide sheet.)

After selecting the file you want to print you are

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Z/80

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format. In addition, Prolog, the language of choice in Japan's 5th Generation Computer Project is available in Apple CP/M format. For an Apple owner, there may be more software available under CP/M than there is under DOS 3.3, or Prodos. Many Apple owners are aware of this, in fact, there is said to be more Apples running CP/M than any other brand of computer in the world (reference 1 in bibliography).

Testing your motherboard, and Applied Engineering's end user support.

One thing to consider if you buy a Z80 card is: can your Apple drive it? In the case of the Applied Engineering card, you don't need to worry about this because Applied Engineering's user support is excellent. However, if you are considering a different brand, you should check out the vendor to find out how reputable they are, and how good their end user support is. This is important because Z80 cards sometimes don't function in some Apples since some Apples have bad chips in them. Apple buys their chips from the lowest bidder, and this creates deviations in chip specifications since some chips may be on the high side, and some may be on the low side, or, the vendor may not be in specification at all! Chips of dubious integrity, when put in combination with other chips, may not work right. This may not affect DOS or Prodos, but may affect a coprocessor board. My computer had bad chips, and I know of another user who actually had to have his entire motherboard replaced to run CP/M. The only way to know if your motherboard is completely okay is to try a Z80 card (from a friend or a computer store) that is known to work, in your computer. If it does not work, some of the chips on your motherboard are weak and/or out of specification and will need to be replaced. I tried three different Z80 cards in my Apple; an imitation Microsoft Softcard, an ALS card with 64K of RAM on it, and, finally, an Applied Engineering card. None of them worked, so I finally became suspicious of my computer. After trying the Applied Engineering card in another computer, I knew my computer had problems. I phoned Applied Engineering and told them my Z80 card did not work. They told me: "No problem, we'll send you another one."! I told them my computer was at fault, and the technician there told me to send my computer in and they would fix it for free, including paying for the return UPS shipment. All the users of Applied Engineering products I talked to, both before I bought my Z80 card, and after I had trouble, had nothing but praise for Applied Engineering, and they all said they would not hesitate to send their computer to them. So, I shipped off my computer. It was recieved on a Friday, and the technician I talked with fixed it on Saturday! On Monday, after a weekend of testing, my computer was shipped back to me! This kind of user support is rare, and is a refreshing change from the "end user drop dead" attitudes I have gotten from Digital Research and a few other companies.

Why the Applied Engineering Card?

The Applied Engineering card will run in Apple II's, II+'s, //e's, and Franklins. It will work with all popular 80 column cards automatically. I have never heard of anyone having trouble with any make of 80 column cards with this card. Parallel and serial interfaces can be installed using the CONFIGIO basic program which is a utility that comes with Microsoft's Softcards. The Applied Engineering card lists for a mere $139, and it will run the latest version of CP/M (CP/M 3). It also runs versions of CP/M earlier than 2.0, and all the versions between 2.0 and the latest versions. This card will run CP/M software downloaded from 8 inch disks (8 inch format is the CP/M standard), and, it will run Microsoft Softcard CP/M formats. This card runs at 4 MHZ, does Z80 interrupts, and supports graphics in GBASIC. The graphics in GBASIC are very similar to the graphics in Applesoft. Applesoft programs need little translation to run in GBASIC, and hi-res graphics are supported by GBASIC. The Applied Engineering card is rather small in size because it has such a small number of chips on it. This means less power is required, less heat is created, and, there are less chips that can potentially fail. If you look at the card you will see it is very well made. All chips are in housings (sockets). This card will run a variety of CP/M operating systems that come with various software packages. In addition, Applied Engineering is developing an operating system that will be available to all future and past owners of their card. It will be called "CP/AM", standing for "Control Program/Apple Microcomputers".

Why 64K of RAM onboard is a bad idea.

The CP/M cards which have their own memory (64K of RAM) do not run the Microsoft Softcard CP/M format because they do not access the Apple's I/O memory the way the Softcard does. This is a severe disadvantage because the point of CP/M for most Apple owners is to try to be compatible with the largest base of software possible, so the cards with 64K on them defeat the purpose and advantage of having CP/M! The Applied Engineering card is the most compatible of them all, running more formats and software than any of the other cards. The Microsoft Softcard set a defacto standard for Apple CP/M formats, despite its being non-standard. So, if you get CP/M, and can't run the Microsoft Softcard

format, you have cut out a huge base of Apple CP/M programs. In fact many times when software is advertised as being available in Apple CP/M format, what is meant is that it is in Microsoft Softcard format. Thus, you want to get a card that will run Microsoft Softcard format as well as standard CP/M formats like you get when you download an 8 inch disk into Apple 5 1/4 inch format. The Applied Engineering card is the only one I know of that can accept both formats well, in addition to running CP/M 3, the latest version of CP/M.

Microsoft SoftCard //e--like all the other cards that have 64K of memory on them, this card will not run the Microsoft Softcard format. In addition, this card will not run CP/M 3. This card has its own video equipment. Why pay for video equipment if you already have a video card? You can't use your own video card with this card which is too bad if you like your video card better than the video equipment on this card. This card is huge and requires more power and creates more heat than the Applied Engineering card, and, because it has so many chips on it, your chances of developing a bad chip is greater. A very unpalatable quirk of this card is the fact that it must go in the auxiliary slot. If you have a card in slot 3 that will coexist with an Apple extended 80 column card in the auxiliary slot, you may not want a Z80 card that requires that slot. It is likely to cause problems with such a set-up. This card is EXPENSIVE, and it will run on //e's only.

PCPI APPLI-CARD--this is the card Franklin sells as their CP/M card, and this card, under the name "StarCard", is often bundled with Wordstar. It has 64K of memory on it, so it too will not run the Microsoft Softcard format. It will not run CP/M 3 either. It is more expensive than the Applied Engineering card also.

Digital Research Gold Card--this card is ludicrously overpriced. The marketing strategy for this card seems to be a belief that people will pay absurd prices for anything that bears the Digital Research label. With this card, you will be more or less restricted to what can be downloaded from 8 inch standard CP/M formats. This card, like the softcard //e, has its own video equipment and will not let you use your own video card's display (if you have one). It is rather large, with alot of chips on it, meaning more heat, more power needed, and more chances of card failure due to bad chips. When I called Digital Research to find out about this card, they told me there is no support for Apple end users (and will not be in the future). They also said there was no technical support line. Digital

GOTO $ B

THANK YOU...

When you stop in to an Apple Pi member store tell them that you are with Apple Pi and thank them for the support they give. Our store members make valuable contributions to Apple Pi from special discounts to the door prizes at the meetings. When you need hardware, software or computer supplies remember our store members.

adam's computers, inc.

3355 So. Wadsworth Blvd.
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colorado Computer Systems, Inc.

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Westminster, CO 80030 (303) 426-5880

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Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 988-9140

JOHNNY APPLESEED

Dear John:

I am currently making a program in which it will ask the user to answer questions. My questions is this: is there any way in which to 'lock' my program, so that people cannot simply 'list' the program to get the answers. If it helps any, I am programming in Applesoft BASIC.

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled:

Your problem is a common one, but, unfortunately, the possible solutions are not published by Apple. The easiest way to 'lock' your program is to not allow the user to enter a LIST or other Applesoft command.

By putting the line:

POKE 214,255

in your program, the program will be run when the user types in ANY Applesoft command. Thus, typing LIST would run the program.

John

Dear John:

I just purchased a video arcade game that is supposed to use the double-hires feature of my extended 80-column card, but I just get garbage. What am I doing wrong?

Garbled

Dear Garbled:

Hopefully, your problem is simple: you probably need to put the 'jumper' on your 80-column card that allows it to do double-hires. The instructions for doing this are in your extended 80-column card manual.

If that doesn't work, take the software WITH YOUR COMPUTER into an Apple Pi member store (listed in this SEED) and ask them to look at your problem.

John

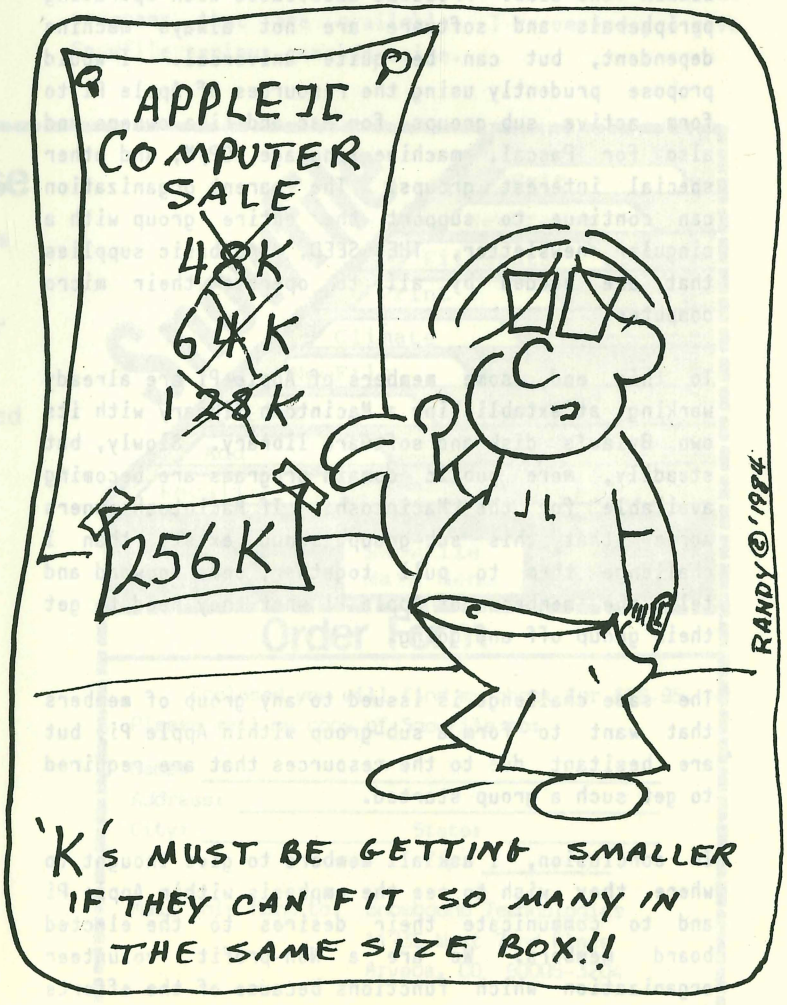
LIBRARIANS REPORT

It's finally here! Our 50th Disk-of-the-Month will be on sale this month! We're really glad to see this DOM, so we've taken some extra special time preparing the DOM for this month. This is one DOM that I'm sure you'll want to have a copy of!

Some of the newer members may wonder where we get the programs that are found every month on our DOM. Some programs come from other clubs, but most of the programs come from YOU! That's right, the membership is the main source for programs on the DOM. So, when you get a program finished, contribute it to Apple Pi!

We've now have the documentation for XLISP available on disk to go with the language disks we added a few months back.

-- Trent Hein, Librarian --



MOVING ALONG

WHERE IS APPLE PI HEADED?

Several years ago Apple Pi was an organization of less than 100 people who had Apple II or II+s and the big concern was changing from DOS 3.2 to DOS 3.3. There were other items to be reckoned with like integer basic, language cards, etc. but they were all related to the same basic computer. Now the membership numbers over 700.

Today there are Apple IIs, II+s, IIes, IIcs, and the famous Apple III in the Apple II family. In addition we have the Macintosh and the Lisa families of computers available from Apple Computers, Inc. So then what is the emphasis for Apple Pi? Should it be a users group centered around the Apple family and its hardware/software, or should it try to be a multi-faceted organization with emphasis on all Apple computers?

In this writer's opinion, I believe Apple Pi can best contribute to the education and advancement of microcomputers by attempting to become multi-faceted within the club. Problems associated with operating peripherals and software are not always machine dependent, but can be quite universal. I would propose prudently using the resources of Apple Pi to form active sub-groups for Mac and Lisa owners and also for Pascal, machine language, CP/M, and other special interest groups. The parent organization can continue to support the entire group with a singular newsletter, THE SEED, and basic supplies that are needed by all to operate their micro computer.

To this end, some members of Apple Pi are already working at extablishing a Macintosh library with its own Bylaw's disk and software library. Slowly, but steadily, more public domain programs are becoming available for the Macintosh. If Macintosh owners agree that this sub-group shoud exist, than I challenge them to pull together, come forward and tell the members of Apple Pi what they need to get their group off and going.

The same challenge is issued to any group of members that want to form a sub-group within Apple Pi, but are hesitant due to the resources that are required to get such a group started.

In conclusion, I ask all members to give thought to where they wish to see the emphasis within Apple Pi and to communicate their desires to the elected board members. We are a Non-profit volunteer organization which functions because of the efforts

TREASUSER'S REPORT

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	7-1-84	7663.84
INCOME		
New Members		364.00
Renewal Members		216.00
DOM Sales		215.00
Library Copies		85.00
Sale of Suppies		1350.00
Seed Advertising		35.00
Intrest eaened		30.36
TOTAL INCOME		2292.36
EXPENSE		
Supplies for Resale		1361.00
CSM Room Rental		450.00
Librarian Supplies		0.00
Printing Costs		972.49
Postage		181.42
Suppies		0.00
BBS Phone Bill & Repairs		65.23
State Sales Tax		383.42
Misc. Expense		93.70
Equipment Rental		46.41
TOTAL EXPENSE		3553.68
Establish Cash on Hand		44.00
ENDING CASH BALANCE	7-31-84	6358.52
ASSETS	7-31-84	
Cash on Hand		50.00
Cash in Bank		6358.52
Inventory for Resale		5739.35
Prepaid Expense		300.00
Accounts Receivable		0.00
Equipment		1860.05
TOTAL ASSETS		14307.92
LIABILITIES		
Sales Tax Accrued		77.44
Accounts Payable		0.00
Unposted Income		476.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES		553.67
NET WORTH		13754.25

of its members. Without the interest of the individual members, the club cannot prosper for any sustained period of time. Join it, get involved -- being interested in Apple Pi is the only prerequisite.

Bob Hein, President

Review

...from page 4

asked what print format you wish to use (had you already defined it, you merely have to type it's title in). If you had not done this, one presses RETURN and then proceeds to define the printed page (remember that the printed page can be a label, form, or sheet of paper). Once the page dimensions are know to the program, the next step is to define on which row and at what column you want the field to begin printing. This is done by stepping down each field in the record and telling the program that row/column start location for the field. Fields not to be printed are skipped using the RETURN key. Once defined, you are asked to enter a name to save the format under. CAUTION: The name you use to save your print format is not easily accessible to you later, so I recommend you use a simple title like "print" that you can remember for each file. Snowfile keeps all files separate so the reference "print" used to define the print format for one file can also be used for another file within the same drawer with no complications. Should you need another print format from the same file, you repeat the definition phase, but use another name to save it uder. When printing is completed, the program returns you to the main menu.

In summary, I rate Snowfile as an extremely user friendly data base program that competes in most areas with much more expensive programs. At the nominal cost that the program is being introduced in the Denver area ($29.95), it is the best value for the dollar database program I've come across. It is refreshing to see such a high quality program come out for the Apple // family of computers in the midst of all of the publicity and attention give to Macintosh/Lisa programs that are being mass advertized today. If you have never given into purchasing one of the high priced $100-$400 database programs that are available, I recommend you give Snowfile serious consideration.

Snowfile...an easy-to-use database

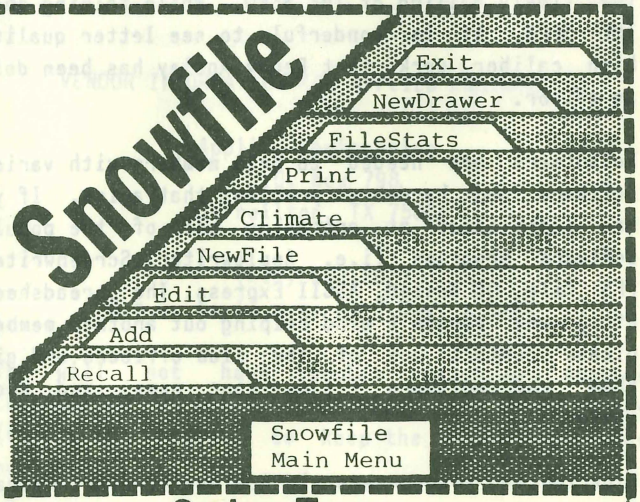
Snowfile is an easy-to-use database program that is designed to handle all of your filing needs. Snowfile can store a phone list, a mailing list, an inventory list, or any other file you need to keep. Best of all, you don't have to be a genius to use Snowfile. One Snowfile user said "I learned enough to get me going in it within 1 minute without reading much of the directions. It is really nice! I like it!"

Snowfile will allow you to store up to 5 pages of information on every person (or thing) in your file. Then, you can print that information on any form that you desire.

So, in this time of confusing, hard-to-use database programs, try Snowfile: the easy-to-use, powerful database program.

Most important: Snowfile is only $29.95.

(Snowfile will work on any Apple //e, //c, or 64K][+)



Order Form

Enclosed you will find my check for $29.95.
Please mail my copy of Snowfile to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____

Mail this form to: Snowbound Technologies
11735 West 72nd Place
Arvada, CO 80005-3204

President's Report

July's Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) turned out to be an overwhelming success with the membership. The DOM consisted of several new high caliber games. Titles of the games are as follows: Westward HO!, Beach-Head, and Bee Crunch. Anyone who would still like to get a copy can contact our sales officer, Roy Dean, at the general meeting or next Core meet.

For those of you who attended the August meeting, you saw an excellent variety presentation on telecommunications with your personal computer. Jeff Beehler and Trent Hein presented a sound and slide presentation entitled "Telecommunications: Making it Easy," Steve Martin presented a demonstration of the Apple Pi BBS and explained how the basic BBS system can be used by the membership. Lanny Mowry, Vice President for Mountain Micro Marketing, discussed the Dow Jones Information Service and MCI mail.

Steve Feldman has rejoined the club after a brief absence and has accepted the job as Newsletter Distribution Officer. Steve is to be thanked for the timely mailing of THE SEED. While talking about THE SEED, it is wonderful to see letter quality, high caliber work that Randy Ansley has been doing as editor.

Volunteers are needed to help members with various software and hardware problems that arise. If you are experienced at operating one of the popular software programs (i.e. Applewriter, Screenwriter, PFS file, DB Master, ASCII Express, The Spreadsheet, etc.) and wouldn't mind helping out another member, please contact one of the club officers and give them the software title, your name, and phone number.

Experienced programmers in Applesoft, LISP, Pascal, and machine language are always needed to help answer questions or to teach a course in a particular language.

After many months of hard work, the membership directory is available to the membership. This is a guide to the interests of the various members in the club and those willing to assist others. A cost of $2.00 has been established to help defray the cost of printing this directory.

Just a reminder to all members that we, the officers of Apple Pi, welcome your thoughts on what the club should emphasis. This includes comments on general meeting formats, subject matters, product reviews, harware reviews/demonstrations, training classes, DOM formats, etc. Feel free to contact me directly athome or via the Apple Pi BBS (user #36) on any matter regarding club activities.

Currently the officers are trying to secure a fixed location for the "Core Meets." This would allow everyone to always know where they are held. In addition, thoughts are being entertained to change the date from the Sunday following the general meeting to the 3rd Sunday in every month except for April (avoid Easter). Member comments are encouraged.

Bob

-- SEED MAIL --

I would like to tip my hat to HAYES MICROCOMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC.!!!!! There are modem companies - and then there is HAYES MICROCOMPUTER products who stand by there product to all ends.

A few weeks back, there was an electrical storm - at which time the computer was turned off! - but the cable to the modem from the wall was plugged in. Low and behold a bolt of lightning struck so close that we saw the lightning before the thunder knocked us off out chairs. My wife just happened to be near the computer at the time and said it sounded like someone chewing on popcorn. Obviously I was in a hurry to try out the computer. When I turned it on - nothing it would not boot. After trial and error I discovered when the modem card was out - everything worked fine. So I called Hayes Microcomputer Products and explained to them what happened and asked it they thought they could fix it. They said sure - no problem, heres your authorization number - send it to us. Then I asked how much they thought it would be. They said no charge they would cover it under the warrenty program. I said - you gotta be joking - the modem is four years old and zapped by lightning. They said - we have a liberal warrenty program. So I rushed the modem down to U.P.S. and sent it to Georgia for R&R. Today I got it back - well not really - because they sent me another new one!!!!!!!! Now - how many companies would do that for you? To me - that means more than any gimmack some other company has. It is really refreshing to experiance a company that has human feelings instead of the normal take the money and run routine.

I highly recommend any Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. product!!!

FRED YATES

Z/80

...from page 6

Research will not answer any questions about the Gold Card unless you are a dealer. Despite the fact I work at a computer store on Saturdays, I was still not allowed to even know what the dealer support phone number is. I was told to see the dealer nearest me. The one and only dealer for this card in Colorado turned out to be the store I work at on Saturdays. I explained to Digital Research that I worked there, and that no one there knew about their card, nor had even seen one, and that I was trying to find out about them. I was told they would mail me literature, but they never did. I also wrote for information as per the instructior in a magazine, but recieved nothing that way either. I sent for both nearly 3 months ago. When I had one of the store owners call for me, the answer to my question about graphics was: the Gold Card supports no graphics. I'm not sure the representatives of Digital Research that I talked with knew what they were talking about, so I don't know if any of this information is correct, however, I will probably never buy any Digital Research products.

Advanced Logic Systems "The CP/M Card"--Digital Research had a big hand in the development of this card. Like most cards with 64K, it won't run the Microsoft Softcard format. It does not officially support any video or parallel/serial cards other than the ones made by ALS. Others may work, but you must find out for yourself. The price is much higher than the Applied Engineering card.

All the above cards have 64K of RAM on them. After what I've said so far, you may be thinking that the softcard is not so bad after all. Don't let me leave you with that impression.

Microsoft Softcard--this card does not run CP/M 3.0, and it is more expensive than the Applied Engineering card.

Conclusion

The choice is yours, but in my opinion the winner is clearly the Applied Engineering card. I think it is the best Z80 card there is for the Apple II series.

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denver apple pi Seed

MAC

by Joe Nagy

I've asked our secretary to research all Apple Pi membership applications for Macintosh owners and she's only come up with five (5). I believe there are more of you out there than that so I'm asking you Macintosh owners, other than ARONSON, MILLER(Jay), WHITNEY, JESSEN & REEVE, to call me so I can generate a MAC owners file. This will help me keep in touch with you personally regarding the various promotions we're going to do.

Well, on to what's for us!! As mentioned in last month's SEED, I'm putting on a demonstration of Microsoft's CHART. The date of this happening will be on September 19th (Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m. at Adam's Computer Store, 3355 S. Wadsworth Blvd, in the Mission Trace Shopping Center just north of Hampden Ave. We are making this demonstration for Apple Pi members only so I need to get a count of those that are going to attend. Please call me at 978-0788 in the evening.

Have you seen Apple's Macintosh Sampler Brochure? Stop by your computer store and get a copy and while you're there take an additional look at this on disk. It's twenty-seven pages of programs that are due to come out very soon. Some of these are already out.

Keep in mind that we are planning to conduct some classes on Microsoft's Multiplan for the Macintoch. I'd like to hear from you owners if you're interested in going to this type of class. Costs and time have not been decided but we need to know how many might be interested.

You're going to find that there will be a lot of programs coming on the market for the Macintosh. Talk to your computer store before you buy, ask for a demonstration, make sure it's what you want before you buy it.

By the time you read this, you Macintosh owners should have a copy of the Apple Pi Bylaws on a Mac disk. Call me if you haven't gotten your copy. I'm sorry but the Disk of the Month is not yet available for us.

Core Meeting

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